

REMARKS

Claims 3-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 have been canceled as a result of this amendment. Claims 3 and 7-10 have been amended as a result of this response. No new claims have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 3 and 10 and dependent claims 4-9 and 11 stand in condition for allowance.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3-11 are allowed. Claims 3 and 7-10 have been amended to place the claims in proper form. Furthermore, in view of the following treatment of the outstanding rejected claims, the application is in condition for prompt allowance.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Shiikuma (U.S. Patent No. 7,315,207) and has rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,042,283). With the canceling of claims 1, 2, 12 and 13, this rejection is moot.

III. Conclusion

All substantive matters having been addressed in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants' undersigned representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains an issue in which the Examiner feels would be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael K. Mutter, Reg.

No. 29,680 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 26, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  4/6/463
jrm Michael K. Mutter WILLIAM TILLOMA
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicants